

Abstract (Basic): WO 9208491 A

Vaccine comprises (i) an anti-idiotypic antibody (I) conjugated to: (ii) a carrier, where the recipient of the vaccine has been previously immunised against the carrier, or previously exposed or the carrier enhances the immunogenic response to (I).

Also new is a method of actively immunising against a potential pathogen or allergen by administering an effective amount of vaccine which contains specific monoclonal (I) conjugated to a carrier protein.

USE/ADVANTAGE - (I) induces the prodn. of neutralising antibodies (Abs) against HIV-1. A conjugate of HBsAg or p24 is useful for HIV-1 infected individuals who produce some Abs against gp120, but produce Abs for the principal neutralising determinant (PND) of gp120 at a low level. The induced PND-specific neutralising Abs may inhibit HIV-1 replication in HIV-1-infected, but asymptomatic, individuals and prevent disease progression. The conjugates which induce neutralising Abs against HIV-1 can be administered in conjunction with Abs that effect passive immunisation against HIV-1. Passive immunisation could be useful for pregnant women or HIV-infected individuals whose immune system is not yet seriously compromised. More Abs against (I) are likely to be produced when using a carrier/(I) conjugate than when using (I) alone